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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/691,864	10/19/2000	Ronald James Scherer	3616.177US11	5410

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EXAMINER

MORGAN, EILEEN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3723	18

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/691,864	Applicant(s) Scherer et al.
Examiner Morgan	Art Unit 3723



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 20, 2003

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 127-180 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 127-180 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3, 15, 1 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 3723

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on 5-20-03 have been disapproved because they introduce new matter into the drawings. 37 CFR 1.121(a)(6) states that no amendment may introduce new matter into the disclosure of an application. The original disclosure does not support the showing of a splitting line or the subject matter of Figures 8 & 9, namely, that the blades now have 'holders' and the surfaces of the holders slope. The original disclosure does not state a 'holder' but that these are 'massive blades'. The drawings do not show separate element capable of being called a holder.

Subs. specs. entered? original -

Specification

2. The substitute specification filed 5-20-03 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The new specification has not been entered. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: the references to the splitting lines and the new descriptions to figures 8 & 9. There are no holders for the blades shown in these drawings. Therefore, the substitute specification will not be entered. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Art Unit: 3723

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 127-180 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The addition of the “splitting line” with which the workpiece is aligned is new matter, not originally disclosed. The claims drawn to the blade holder being disposed at an acute angle is new matter, the original disclosure does not recite a “holder”, but that the blade itself has surfaces that slope. The addition to the claims that refer to the ‘workpiece-engaging edge’ and ‘workpiece-engaging tips’ and that the projections or the first surfaces ‘engage the workpiece to break away portions’ is new matter. Accordingly, these claims will not be treated on the merits.

pg. 8, line 25

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 142-144 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 3723

How are the engagement surfaces extending away from the splitting edge? The acute angle is with respect to what?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 127-131,133,134,135,138-141,145-150,152,154-162,164,166,167,168, 172,174,175,177

rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cox et al.-3,120,842.

Cox discloses a device having opposing top and bottom splitting assemblies with projections, wherein at least one is a blade and the other projections are on either side of the blade.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was

Art Unit: 3723

made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 132, 151,163, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al., alone.

Cox does not disclose the exact diameter. However, this would be a matter of obvious design choice dependent on machining parameters.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 5-20-03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The use of the term 'splitting line' is still deemed new matter and was added in an attempt to overcome a prior art rejection. In addition, applicant states on page 12 of amendment that the 'splitting line' is not necessarily a straight line but can be made up of multiple linear and/or non-linear segments. This is also unsupported by the originl specification. Arguments drawn to Flaggard are moot in view of the new art rejection.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to E. Morgan whose telephone number is (703) 308-1743.

EM

August 7, 2003



EILEEN P. MORGAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER